

All Families Served Subcommittee – Child Homelessness Work Group
33 W. Monroe, 15th Floor, Room 1506
December 1st, 2015 from 10:00–11:15am

- Welcome and Introductions
Attendees: Carie Bires, Renee Tetrick, Carmen Garcia, Dawn Thomas, Jay Young, Julia Zhu, Jaci Vaughn, Vicki Hodges, Shauna Ejeh, Cerathel Burnett, Fiona Anderson
- Review strategy memo
 - The memo has been updated with relevant legislative rules and regulations. A chart has been made with these rules and regulations for easier access to compare the different eligibility criteria and definitions of homelessness between the early learning programs. The memo highlights the difference in the definition of homelessness between HUD and the Department of Education which is leaving large gaps in how we collect data on this population.
- Status updates:
 - Carie spoke with Pennsylvania IDEA Part C and learned that all homeless children are eligible for IDEA Part C in the state. This can be used as a way of tracking this population through the education system as well as an attempt to find out how many homeless children there are who are in early learning programs. Pennsylvania has outreach workers dedicated to go to family shelters and refer all children under 3 who are living there to EI. The EI referral form allows the reason for referral to be homeless.
 - Shauna, Head Start: As of March 2015 there are new regulations that say a family must have documentation to prove they are homeless. If the child is homeless they will still be categorically eligible. However, this doesn't capture a lot of families who experience housing instability. Homelessness is only measured at intake, if a child becomes homeless later in the year it will not be captured. It is also hard to collect data that is not being reported on to the Federal government. People are less motivated to capture who is homeless when they do not have to report it.
 - Head Start has their next state conference in February and there could be a session on what data is being collected and reported and on McKinney Vento.

- Family engagement would have information on who is homeless but there is no requirement for Head Start to report family engagement data.
 - Vicki, ISBE: Schools and programs don't understand McKinney Vento. There needs to be more training and professional development around McKinney Vento rules, regulations, and implications.
 - The Elementary and Secondary Education Act is being reauthorized which will eliminate children waiting for foster care from McKinney Vento and move them to another area.
- Additional info and stakeholders
 - It was mentioned that it would be great to get a sense of how many children are homeless in the community so programs could identify who they are not serving. Head Start programs don't know who they are so they don't know that they are not serving them.
 - ICAM is starting to look at a methodology or a way to estimate is homelessness in the 0-5yrs population.
 - Other entities that homeless families may be access that might track if they are homeless are WIC clinics, Emergency rooms, Managed Care Organizations (MCO), Department of Healthcare and Family Services (HFS). More information is needed to learn what these data these systems are tracking and reporting.
- Next Steps
 - Data, Research, and Evaluation Committee on January 14th, 2015
 - Present what we know so far about early learning and homelessness
 - Ask for feedback on: What are indicators of homelessness? How do you measure homelessness?
 - Reach out to Nadeen Israel at EverThrive to identify what information MCOs and HFS tracks
 - Look into data at the Municipality or County level to inform Head Start Needs Assessments
 - Suggested recommendation to increase tracking of homeless children in Head Start and Public School: Professional Development/Training on McKinney Vento and data collection

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